

The Communicators of Excellence (COE) Award Ceremony will be held on 10 May 2013 at 1000 at the Defense Information School, Fort Meade, Maryland.

The COE was established to combine, streamline and recognize various annual competitions under one venue. The competitions operate under the aegis of the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. They are administered by the Commandant of the Defense Information School, with cooperation from national and local professional organizations. This combines six separate Public Affairs (PA) and Visual Information (VI) competitions, recognizing professionals within the six separate competitions listed:

- A. The Visual Information Awards Program (VIAP) (3 competitions) is designed to recognize, reward, and promote excellence among military photographers, videographers, journalists, broadcasters, photojournalists, graphic artists and mass communication specialists. They are: MILGRAPH, MILPHOG, and MILVID.
- B. The Thomas Jefferson (TJ) Awards Program (2 competitions) is designed to recognize, reward, and promote excellence among military and civilian print and broadcast journalism / media.
- C. The (now) annual DoD Visual Information Production Awards (VIPA) are an initiative of the ATSD (PA). The competition was created in 1998. The principal purpose of the awards program is to recognize effective, purposeful use of the production medium, to include achievement of communication objectives and appropriate use of the potentially powerful – but relatively expensive -- information and training tool that the production represents.